The Front Burner
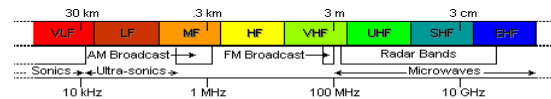## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
3rd Edition

DOE Names New Deputy CIO

The OCIO welcomes a new member to its team this month with the naming of Mr. Carl P. Staton as new Deputy Chief Information Officer. Mr. Staton will be supporting the CIO in guiding the Department's effective use of Information Technology (IT) and managing the Department's IT resources, while providing the leadership to advance the Department of Energy's mission. Mr. Staton will also be acting as Director of High Performance Computing and Communications where he has broad oversight in coordinating high performance computing requirements and solutions as well as coordinating DOE's networking infrastructure.

Mr. Staton comes to DOE with 26 years of federal government Information Technology (IT) experience. Previously, he held the position of CIO for the Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where he carried out the IT oversight and coordination for all of the NOAA's IT systems and functions. While at NOAA he also programmed minicomputers to process environmental satellite data and imagery, lead multi-million dollar IT acquisitions, and managed large IT organizations and contracts. In 1998 Mr. Staton was selected into the Senior Executive Service as the Director of Central Operations in NOAA's National Weather Service, where he managed the supercomputer and networking for the National Centers for Environmental Prediction. In January, 2001 Mr. Staton was named Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the National Weather Service and subsequently named CIO of NOAA in May, 2002.

Mr. Staton has been honored with the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal, the General Services Administration's (GSA) Interagency Committee on Information Resource Management Technical Excellence Award, and other IT related recognitions. He is a graduate of the GSA Trail Boss program for IT acquisitions and of the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society program.

Spectrum Establishes New Advisory Group

The Presidential Spectrum Reform Initiative established the federal spectrum Policy and Plans Steering Group (PPSG); an interagency advisory group comprised of assistant secretaries from the Federal agencies. The PPSG was established to address major radio spectrum issues facing the Federal Government. The PPSG met most recently on October 26, 2006 and addressed the Federal Strategic Spectrum Plan and the Annual Federal Spectrum Report. DOE was represented at the most recent PPSG by the Office of the CIO.

Carl Staton Addresses the Germantown Chapter of AFCEA

From left to right: Panelists Cray Henry, Carl Staton, Chip Watson and Dr. Phil Webster

Mr. Carl Staton, Deputy CIO, was a panelist at the monthly luncheon for the Germantown Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) on November 7, 2006. The luncheon featured a panel discussion on High Performance Computing (HPC). The HPC updates included introductions to new applications, challenges, and future programs related to high performance computing at each panelist's agency.

EA Instrumental in New SWPA-WAPA Partnership and SCADA System

In times when government budgets are tight, increased efforts are made within DOE to ensure the U. S. taxpayer dollars are being used in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Using Enterprise Architecture (EA) best practices is key to meeting that goal.

Recently, the Power Marketing Administration employed the best practice of collaboration and reuse to achieve cost savings. In doing so, two major Power Marketing Administrations (PMA) came together to produce a more effective Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system in an effort to widely-improve the quality and effectiveness of data acquisition. In 2001 Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA) made the decision to upgrade its existing Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) SCADA after an in-depth evaluation. SWPA conducted a close review of systems in use at other PMAs with common lines of business, and discovered that WAPA had a similar need and interest. Therefore, in 2003, SWPA began collaborating with WAPA to find a system with better alarming capabilities, situational awareness, and improved cyber-security features.

Dispatcher Sheldon McNeil and Supervisor Jim Carnahan explore the capabilities of the new SCADA system

"With the two PMAs working together, Southwestern's new system is not only customized for its specific needs, but it has also avoided many of the costs associated with working with a commercial vendor," says Dave Childer, Information Technology Specialist at SWPA. "Ultimately, the goal of the partnership is that both agencies can share costs as well as system enhancements."

SWPA and WAPA worked closely to develop new software that is simpler, more cost-efficient and adaptable for dispatchers, substations and agencies to use. SWPA successfully upgraded its SCADA system at its operations Center in Springfield, MO in June 2006. The new system retrieves data from remote terminal units at substations and power plants, and provides dispatchers with the ability to remotely control those devices through a graphical user interface on their personal computers. Under the joint development agreement, both PMAs have the flexibility to use the SCADA Power Control System (PCS) to respond to emergencies or industry requirements.

"Southwestern and Western made this happen in a real-world, business-like manner, working together efficiently to get the most benefit with the least costs, and with a minimum amount of red tape," said Mike Deihl, Southwestern Administrator. "I am very proud of the work we have done, and hope that future efforts between us and Western or the other PMAs can continue."

IN BRIEF:
- ❖ **Annual Information Management Conference**: March 5-9, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia
- ❖ **Cyber Security Training Conference:** April 31-May 4, 2007 in Anaheim, California